

## "Independent retail: A cornerstone of vibrant local communities in Europe"

### EP event organised by Independent Retail Europe in partnership with SME Connect

**Date:** Wednesday 5 February 2025

**Time:** 18:00 – 21:00

**Location:** European Parliament, Members Salon, Brussels

**Hosting MEP (Member of the European Parliament):** Jörgen WARBORN (EPP, Sweden)

#### Programme in detail

**18:00 – Opening & welcome by the moderator, Tamsin ROSE**, communications expert and former journalist

#### **Welcomes**

- \* Dr. Horst Heitz (Chair of the Steering Committee of SME Connect)
- \* MEP Jörgen Warborn
- \* MEP Axel Voss (TBC)

**18:15 – Brief word of welcome & fireside chat with Thomas Nonn**, REWE Group – President Independent Retail Europe on the challenges for groups of independent retailers

#### **Film on the business model of groups of independent retailers**

#### **18:30 – Panel discussions**

Panellists:

- \* Britta Goertz – Retailer, member of ANWR (Germany, non-food (shoes))
- \* Clara Medina Perdomo – Retailer, member of SPAR (Spain, Gran Canaria, food)
- \* Thierry Cotillard – Retailer, member & President of Groupement Mousquetaires (France, food and non-food)
- \* Thomas Widlund – Retailer, member of ICA (Sweden, food)
- \* MEP 1 - TBC
- \* MEP 2 - TBC

#### **19:20 – Key points from our Manifesto**

Else Groen, Independent Retail Europe, Director General

#### **Moderator close**

#### **19:30 – Networking session with drinks and food**